

Message Text

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TAGS:PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE SITUATION ADDRESSED AT SECRETARY'S

-- NEWS CONFERENCE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT
FROM SECRETARY'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF MARCH 26 CONCERNING
SITUATION IN PORTUGAL:

QUOTE:

Q: MR. SECRETARY, COULD YOU GIVE US YOUR ASSESSMENT OF
THE EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, WHAT U.S. POLICY IS TOWARDS
PORTUGAL, AND WHETHER IT MIGHT HAVE TO CHANGE?

A: PORTUGAL, OF COURSE, IS A MEMBER OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC
TREATY ORGANIZATION AND HAS HAD CLOSE AND FRIENDLY
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE UNITED STATES. WHAT SEEMS TO BE
HAPPENING IN PORTUGAL NOW IS THAT THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT
WHICH IS SUBSTANTIALLY DOMINATED BY OFFICERS OF LEFTIST
TENDENCIES HAS NOW APPOINTED A NEW CABINET IN WHICH
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COMMUNISTS AND PARTIES CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE

COMMUNISTS HAVE MANY OF THE CHIEF PORTFOLIOS. THIS WAS AN EVOLUTION THAT WAS NOT FORESEEABLE OVER RECENT MONTHS, AND IT WILL, OF COURSE, RAISE QUESTIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES IN RELATIONSHIP TO ITS NATO POLICY AND TO ITS POLICY WITH PORTUGAL.

WITH RESPECT TO NATO, THIS IS A MATTER TO BE DISCUSSED

WITH ALL OF OUR ALLIES, AND WE ARE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THEM.

WITH RESPECT TO PORTUGAL, THE UNITED STATES HAS A TRADITION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL, AND IT DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN BREAKING THESE FRIENDLY RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WE ARE DISQUIETED BY AN EVOLUTION IN WHICH THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS MAY BECOME A SHAM, AND IN WHICH PARTIES ARE GETTING INTO DOMINANT POSITION WHOSE INTERESTS WE WOULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT WERE NECESSARILY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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